

ACLU Hopes For End to U.S. Abuses

16/73
United Press International

The American Civil Liberties Union said yesterday it will be more difficult to control the nation's intelligence agencies than it was to get President Nixon out of the White House.

"The end of the Nixon presidency was regarded by most Americans as a return to normal times," said Aryeh Neier, ACLU executive director. "The end of the national security state will require a new sense of what is normal."

Neier gave this assessment in an introduction to the ACLU's annual report, which showed the 275,000-member organization was involved in about 6,000 court cases and received more than \$4 million in contributions in 1975.

"Perceived optimistically," Neier said, 1975 "could be the beginning of the end for the national security state."

Citing revelations about activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, the FBI and other intelligence operations, Neier said: "Now that Americans are informed of the shabby things done in the name of national security, perhaps they will put an end to them."

But he said the "absence of a single villain who personifies the evil to be purged" marks the difference between the intelligence problem and Watergate.

"It will be far harder to put an end to the abuses of civil liberty by the national security apparatus than it was to end Nixon's presidency," he said.

Covert activities by the CIA, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and the National Security Agency "were not aberrations," Neier said.